

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7700

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FOR: CU/ WE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SCUL PO

SUBJECT: EDUCATION PACKAGE FOR AZORES AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 038204; (B) STATE 035408

1. CONTENTS OF REFTEL (A) PASSED TO CRESPO, WHO SAID PROPOSAL TO SPREADSTUDENTS AMONG THREE UNIVERSITIES (TEACHERS COLLEGE, TEXAS, AND NORTHWESTERN) IS ACCEPTABLE TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

2. STUDENT SPREAD ENVISIONED IS THREE OR FOUR AT TC, REMAINDER AT TEXAS AND NORTHWESTERN. DIVISION BETWEEN LATTER INSTITUTIONS NEED NOT BE EQUAL; E. G., IF THREE STUDENTS ENROLL AT TC, IT IS IMMATERIAL TO CRESPO WHETHER REMAINING 18 STUDENTS ARE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN TEXAS AND NORTHWESTERN OR WHETHER MAJORITY GO TO TEXAS. CRESPO CONFIDENT HE CAN HANDLE BEREDAY' S ENTREATY TO INCREASE NUMBER ENROLLING IN TC.

3. RE PARA 3 REF (B): CRESPO SAID PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS WILL HAVE DISPARATE BACKGROUNDS. HE SAID THEY NEED TRAINING IN GENERAL TEACHING METHODS, WHICH HE DEFINED AS PHILOSOPHY, PSYCHOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY, AND METHODOLOGY OF EDUCATION. TEACHERS TRAINED IN U. S. WILL STAFF NEW PEDAGOGICAL INSTITUTE, TRAIN PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS IN PORTUGAL ON HOW, NOT WHAT, TO TEACH.

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4. CRESPO SAID CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF STUDENTS IS A PROBLEM. IF TOO MUCH WEIGHT IS ASSIGNED TO STUDENTS' PRESENT KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH, CANDIDATES WHO ARE OTHERWISE WELL QUALIFIED, AND PERHAPS MORE DESIRABLE, WILL BE DISADVANTAGED. GOAL IS TO ENSURE HIGHEST QUALITY OF STUDENTS WHO CAN AT SAME TIME PASS ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM REQUIRED BY TC. FACT THAT THEY CANNOT DO SO NOW BUT WITH INTENSIVE TRAINING OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DO SO IN SEPTEMBER IS THE ISSUE, SINCE SELECTION AND ADMISSION PRECEDE ACTUAL ENROLLMENT. SOLUTION CRESPO HAS WORKED OUT WITH BEREDAY IS FOR LATTER TO COME TO LISBON IN MID- APRIL ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBER OF TC ADMISSIONS OFFICE, EVALUATE STUDENTS AND, IN EFFECT, ADMIT THEM IN LISBON, WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT WHILE SOME STUDENTS MAY NOT NOW BE ABLE TO PASS PROFICIENCY EXAM. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO AFTER UNDERGOING INTENSIVE TRAINING EITHER IN LISBON OR U. S. PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT NEXT FALL. CRESPO SAID PROCESS MUST BE HANDLED DELICATELY OR FEELINGS MAY BE BRUISED. SO- CALLED "EASTER CONFERENCE" HE AND BEREDAY SPEAK OF IS SMOKE SCREEN TO MASK EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF CANDIDATES, HE SAID.

5. EMBOFF ASKED CRESPO IF HE WOULD FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE REPS FROM NORTHWESTERN AND TEXAS COME TO LISBON WITH BEREDAY TO EVALUATE STUDENTS, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT BEREDAY WOULD BE PRIMUS INTER PARES. CRESPO RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH HIS MINISTER AND WOULD HAVE AN ANSWER NEXT WEEK. HE SEES PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES BUT WONDERS WHETHER SMOKE SCREEN IS THICK ENOUGH TO ENVELOP SUCH A LARGE CONTINGENT.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY ASSUMES CU WILL INFORM NORTHWESTERN AND TEXAS OF MINISTRY' S AGREEMENT TO PLACE STUDENTS IN THESE INSTITUTIONS AND WILL PROCEED TO WORK OUT FURTHER DETAILS WITH THEM. SOONER OR LATER THEIR REPS WILL HAVE TO COME TO LISBON, SO IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHEN WOULD BE CONVENIENT TIME FOR THEM TO COME, IN EVENT MID- APRIL IMPRACTICAL OR INCONVENIENT FOR CRESPO. IF THEY DO NOT COME THEN, WOULD CU RECOMMEND CRESPO VISIT U. S. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE NORTHWESTERN AND TEXAS REPS WITH GENERAL BRIEFING BEFORE THEY VISIT LISBON? IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY CRESPO COULD BREAK AWAY BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING WITH BEREDAY HERE IN APRIL.

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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